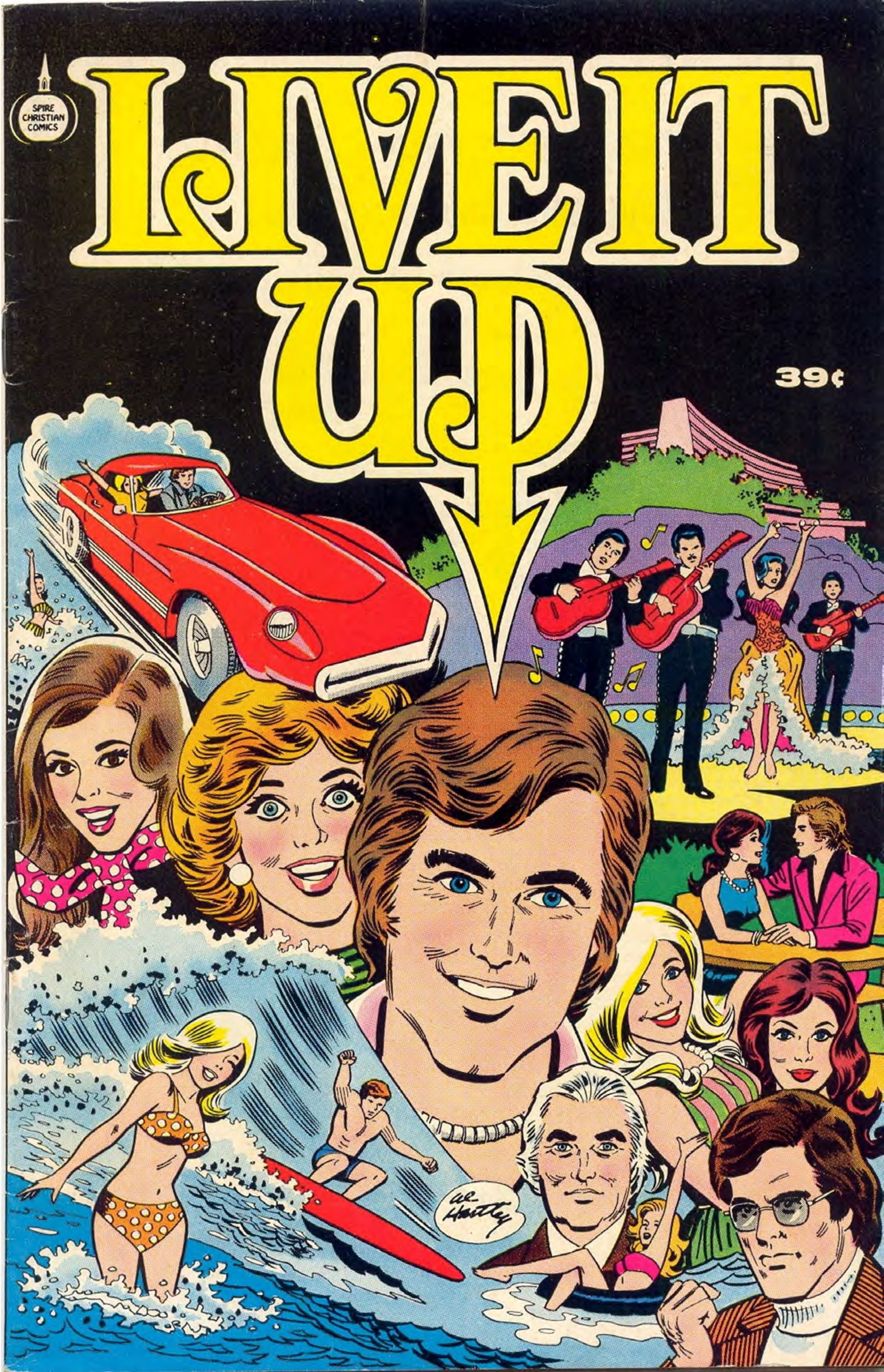

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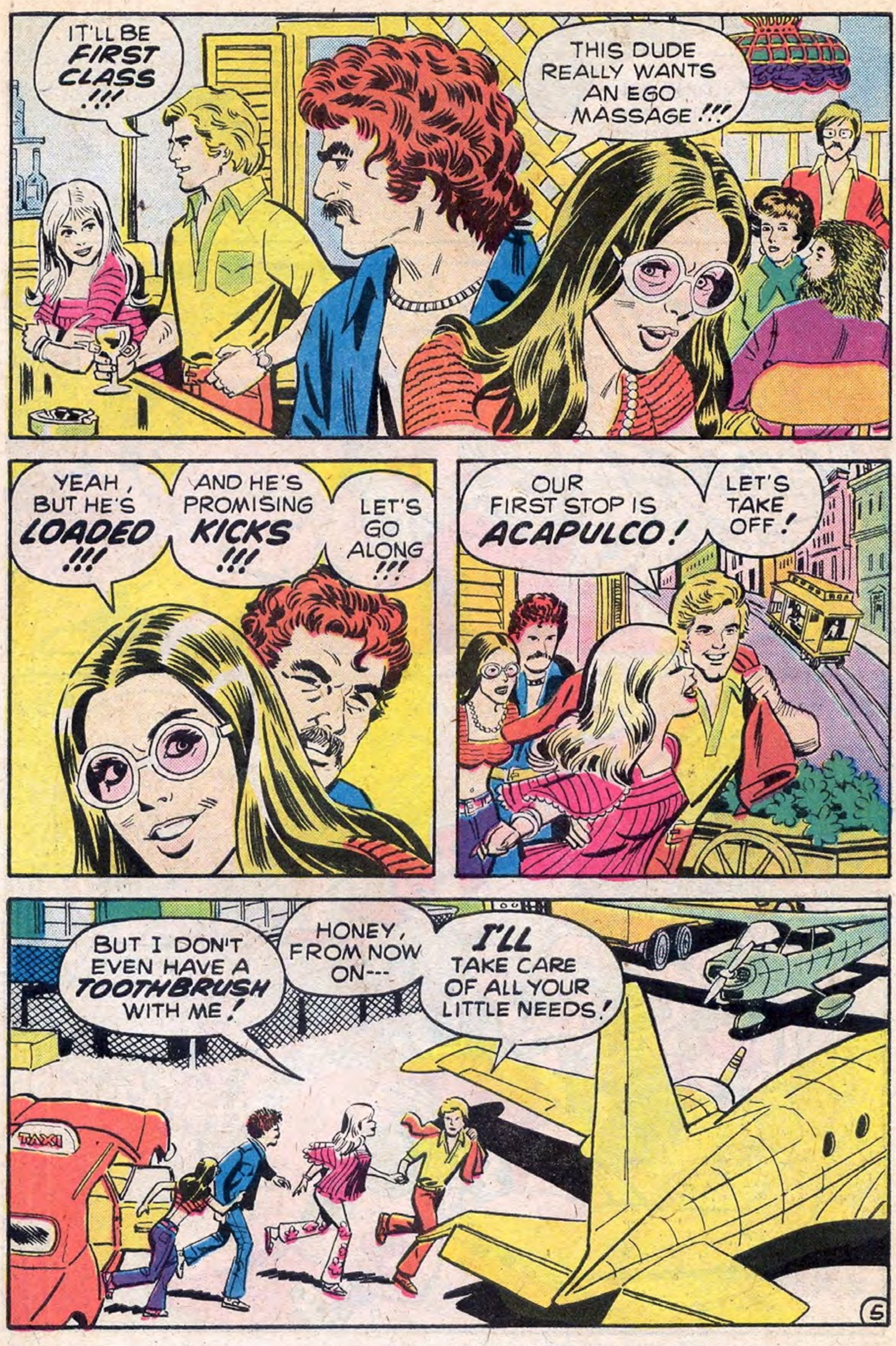

YOU CAN'T DO THIS, PETE !!!
I'M A FREE SPIRIT !!!
NOT A PATSY !!!
DAD, WHEN YOU DIE--
JEFF AND I WILL INHERIT YOUR ESTATE!
BUT I CAN'T WAIT!
I WANT MY SHARE--
NOW !!!


VERY WELL, PETE ---
I'LL HAVE MY ATTORNEYS WORK IT OUT!
THANKS!!!
I'LL PACK A FEW THINGS!
YOU'RE LEAVING???
RIGHT! I WANT TO ENJOY LIFE!
THERE ARE PLACES I WANT TO SEE!
AND THINGS I WANT TO DO!
WHAT ABOUT THE FAMILY BUSINESS???
Rolling Stoned
YOU RUN IT!
I'M NOT GOING TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN THE RAT RACE!
2



PETE--- HOW WILL WE KEEP IN TOUCH WITH YOU?
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO READ ABOUT ME IN THE PAPERS!
I DON'T KNOW WHERE I'M GOING---
ALL I KNOW IS---
I'M GOING TO---
LIVE IT UP!
Al Hartley
Y AVIATION INC.
R072
TOWER--- THIS IS ROMEO, ZERO, SEVEN--- CLIMBING OUT---
FREE AS A BIRD---
DESTINATION UNKNOWN!!!
3


THREE HOURS LATER---
WELCOME TO SAN FRANCISCO!!!
FOLLOW ME
REFUEL IT, PAL!
AND CALL ME A CAB!
TAKE ME TO THE WILDEST SINGLES BAR IN TOWN!
AND KEEP THE CHANGE!!!
FARE
BOTTOMS UP, GANG!
I'M TREATING!!!
I'M LOOKING FOR TRAVELLING COMPANIONS!
AND I'M OFFERING AN ALL-EXPENSES-PAID VACATION!
4

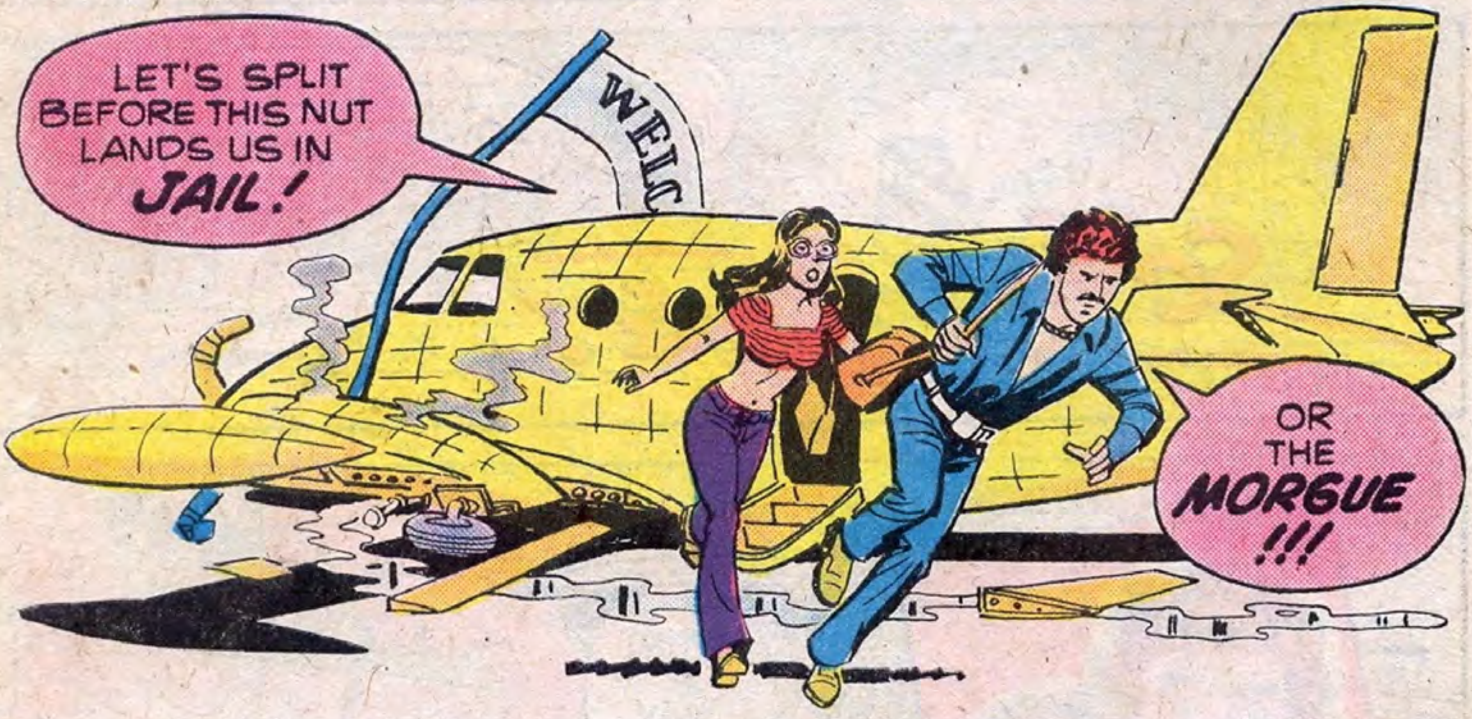

IT'LL BE FIRST CLASS !!!
THIS DUDE REALLY WANTS AN EGO MASSAGE !!!
YEAH, BUT HE'S LOADED !!!
AND HE'S PROMISING KICKS !!!
LET'S GO ALONG !!!
OUR FIRST STOP IS ACAPULCO!
LET'S TAKE OFF!
BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE A TOOTHBRUSH WITH ME!
HONEY, FROM NOW ON---
I'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL YOUR LITTLE NEEDS!
TAXI
5

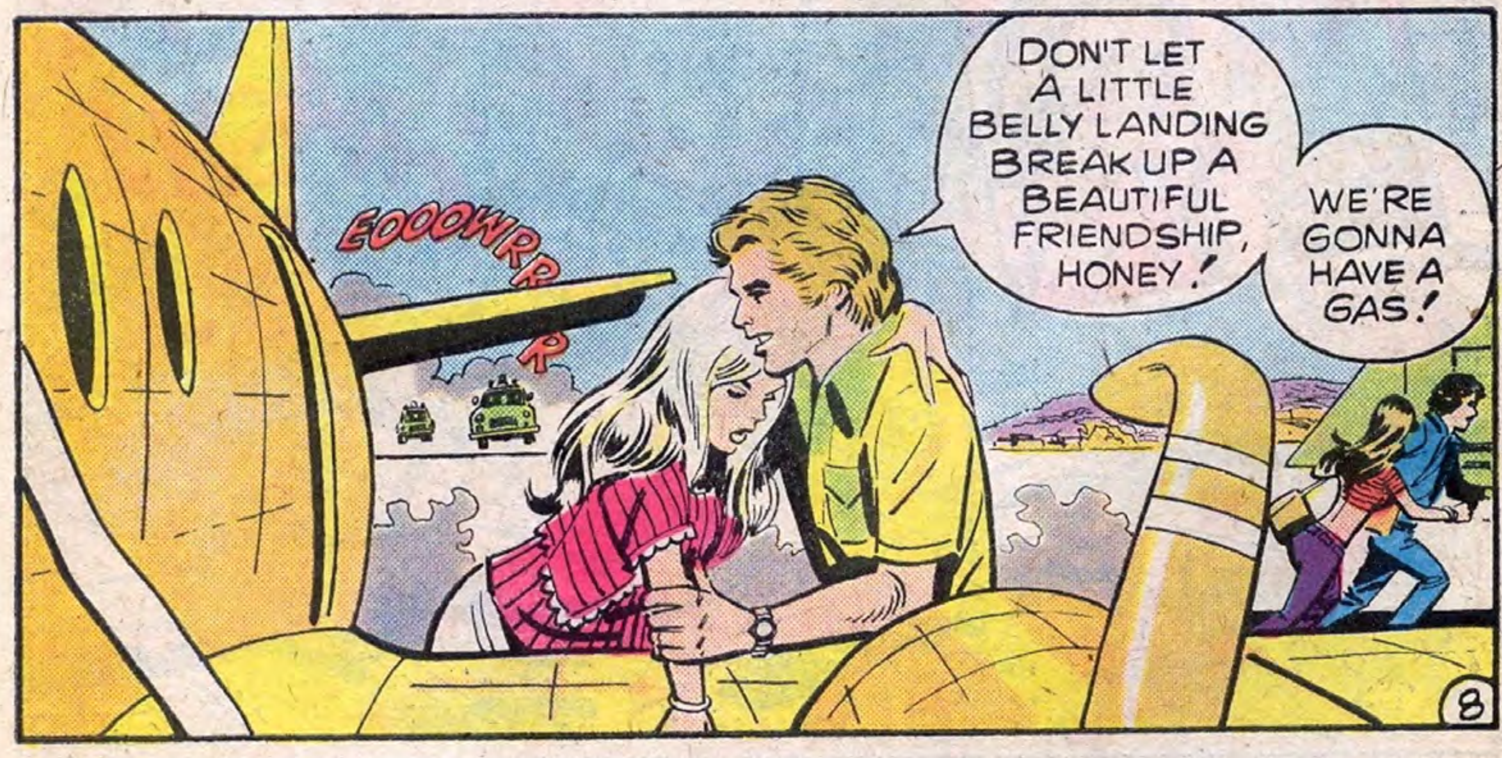


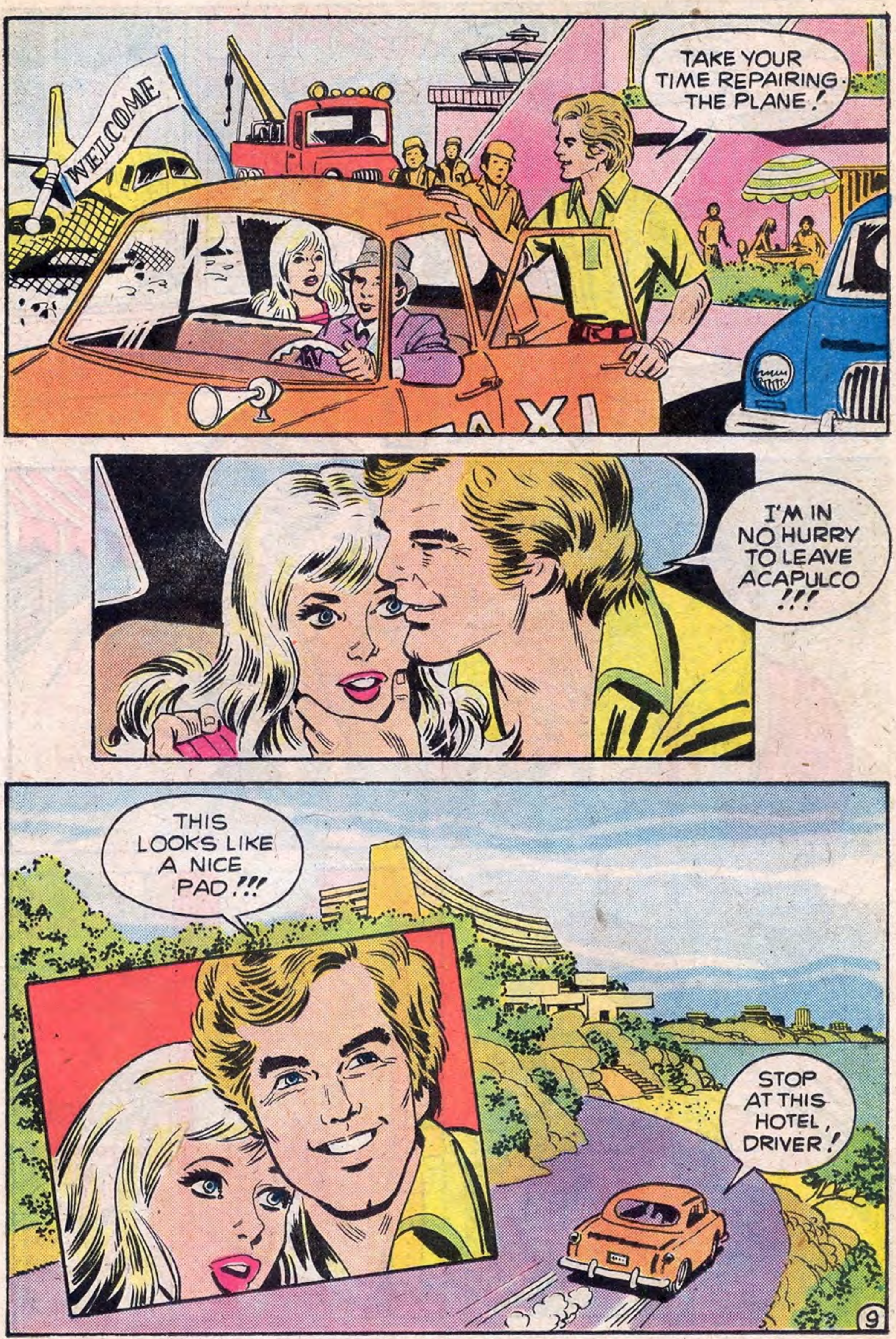
PETE---
SHOULDN'T YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THE CONTROLS ???
I'VE NEVER SEEN **ONE-ARM FLYING** BEFORE!
ZOOM!
I'LL BET THE BEACH AT ACAPULCO NEVER SAW **THIS** BEFORE, EITHER !!!
6


HEY!
YOU CAN'T LAND THIS BIRD WITH HER IN YOUR LAP!!!
SURE I CAN! IT'S MORE FUN THIS WAY!
90
!!!
I FORGOT TO LOWER THE LANDING GEAR!
SCREEEEEEEEEEE!
WHAT A WAY TO ARRIVE!!!
GATE 4
WELCOME
CRASH!
7


THE FUZZ HERE IS DOWN ON JUNK !!!
AND WE'RE LOADED WITH IT!

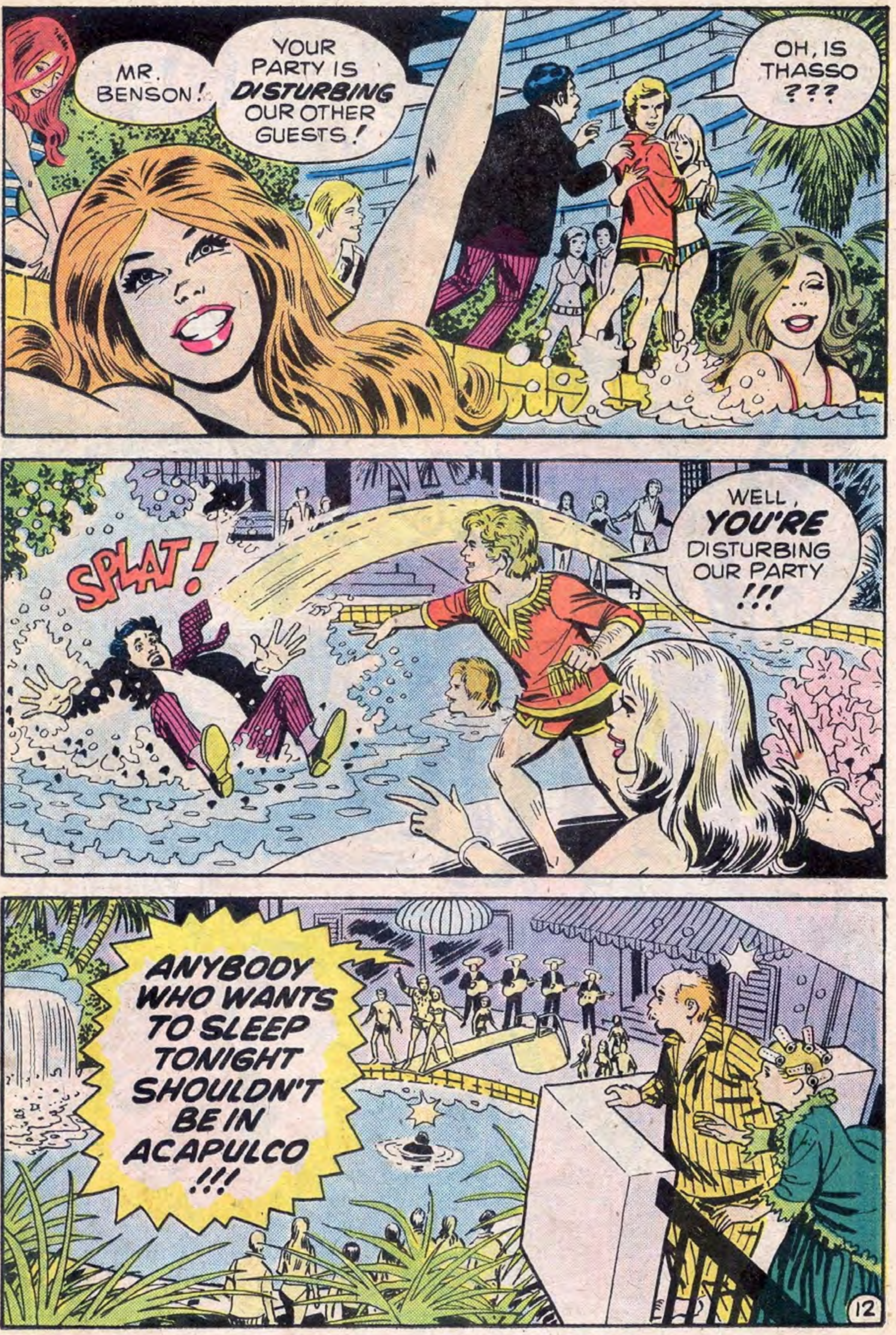

LET'S SPLIT BEFORE THIS NUT LANDS US IN JAIL!
WELC
OR THE MORGUE !!!

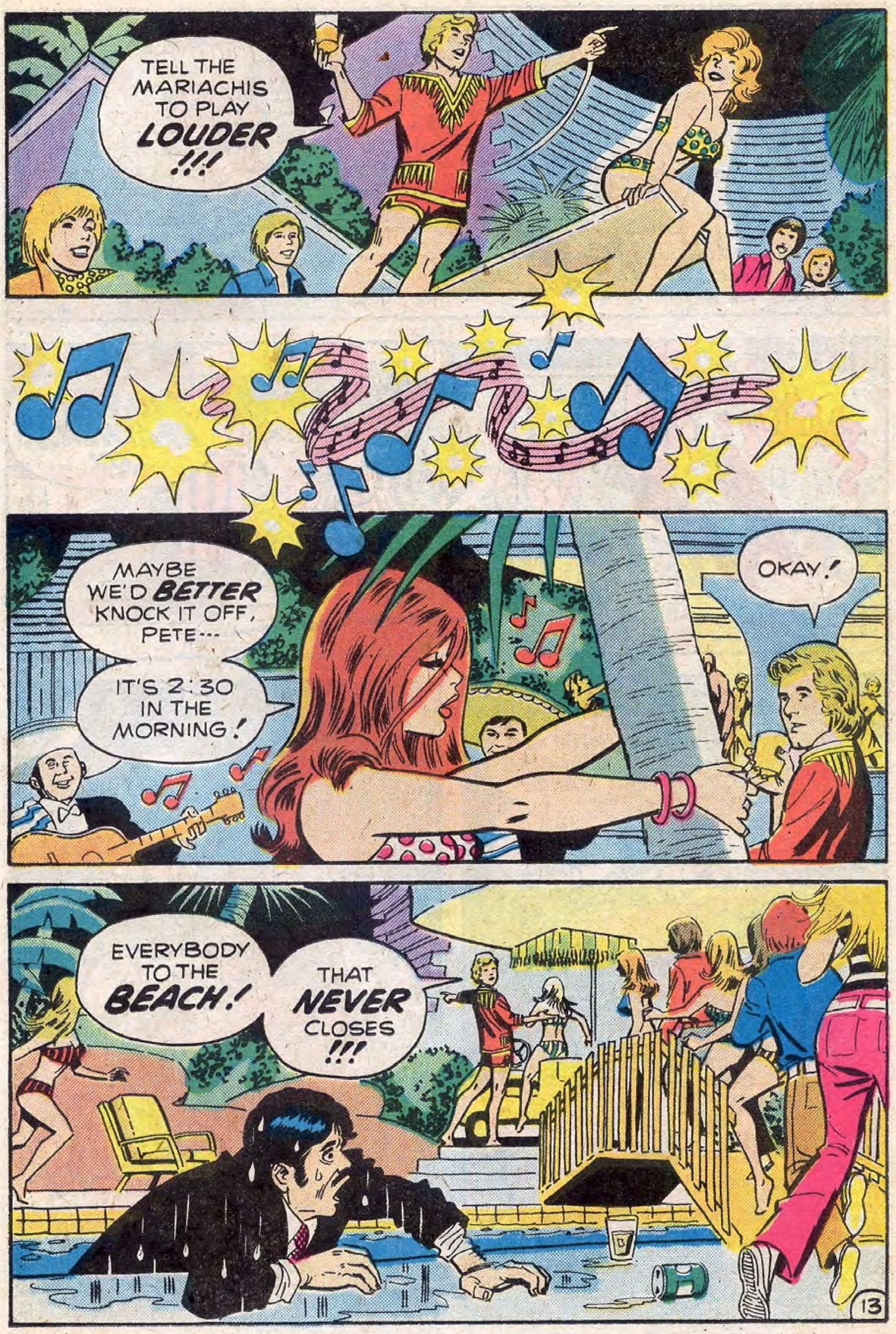

EOOOWRRR
DON'T LET A LITTLE BELLY LANDING BREAK UP A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP, HONEY!
WE'RE GONNA HAVE A GAS!
8


WELCOME
TAKE YOUR TIME REPAIRING THE PLANE!
TAXI
I'M IN NO HURRY TO LEAVE ACAPULCO!!!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A NICE PAD!!!
STOP AT THIS HOTEL, DRIVER!
9


BUY YOURSELF SOME GOODIES---
I'LL CHECK IN!
NICE TO HAVE YOU WITH US, MR. BENSON!
THANKS!
PUT THIS ON YOUR BULLETIN BOARD, PLEASE!
NOTICE
ALL SWINGING SINGLES ARE INVITED TO A POOLSIDE PARTY TODAY AT 6:00 P.M.
Pete Benson
HOST
10


FANTASTIC PARTY, PETE !!!


MR. BENSON!
YOUR PARTY IS DISTURBING OUR OTHER GUESTS!
OH, IS THASSO ???
SPLAT!
WELL, YOU'RE DISTURBING OUR PARTY !!!
ANYBODY WHO WANTS TO SLEEP TONIGHT SHOULDN'T BE IN ACAPULCO !!!
12


TELL THE MARIACHIS TO PLAY LOUDER !!!
MAYBE WE'D BETTER KNOCK IT OFF, PETE---
IT'S 2:30 IN THE MORNING!
OKAY!
EVERYBODY TO THE BEACH!
THAT NEVER CLOSES !!!
13


MR. BENSON!
YOU CAN'T...
NOT THROUGH THE LOBBY!
SPLOOSH!
MONKEY FEATHERS !!!
HIT THE BEACH, GANG!
HAH! HAH! HAH!
MAN!
THIS IS LIVING!!!
14



THE NEXT MORNING---
PETE---
LOOK AT THE SUNRISE!!!
IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL---
AND PURE!
AND I FEEL SO UGLY---
AND POLLUTED!!!


DAD, I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU!
YOU GAVE PETE OVER A MILLION DOLLARS---
---AND LET HIM RUN OUT ON HIS RESPONSIBILITIES!!!
HE WAS READY TO GO---
WITH OR WITHOUT...
THE MILLION DOLLARS!
AND I CAN'T CHAIN HIM DOWN, JEFF!
PRAY FOR YOUR BROTHER!
WHEREVER HE IS, GOD LOVES HIM!
AND ANSWERS PRAYER!
16


PETE---
DO YOU EVER THINK ABOUT LIFE?
SURE!
ALL THE TIME!
I ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT!
BUT IS THIS THE WAY IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE?
CAN YOU THINK OF A BETTER WAY?
I FOUND THIS BIBLE IN THE ROOM---
JESUS SPOKE OF A BETTER WAY!
17


I HAD ENOUGH OF THE BIBLE AT HOME!
NOW C'MON!
WE'VE GOT A DATE FOR DOUBLES!
SORRY, PETE---
I'VE PLAYED YOUR KIND OF DOUBLES LONG ENOUGH!
IT'S A LOSING GAME!!!
OKAY!
THERE ARE PLENTY OF PARTNERS AROUND!
18


YOU'RE DEPARTING ABRUPTLY, MR. BENSON---
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT ???
YEAH---
---BUT I HAVE BUSINESS IN SOUTH AMERICA!
CAN YOU SEE THE SUNSET FROM YOUR SIDE, PETE ???
NO---
BUT, I DON'T CARE---
I PREFER DARKNESS !!!


THIS IS **MY** STYLE, HONEY !!!
CHARGE
CREDIT
HEDON
CREDIT
CHARGE
SECOND NOTICE
OVERDUE
PAST DUE

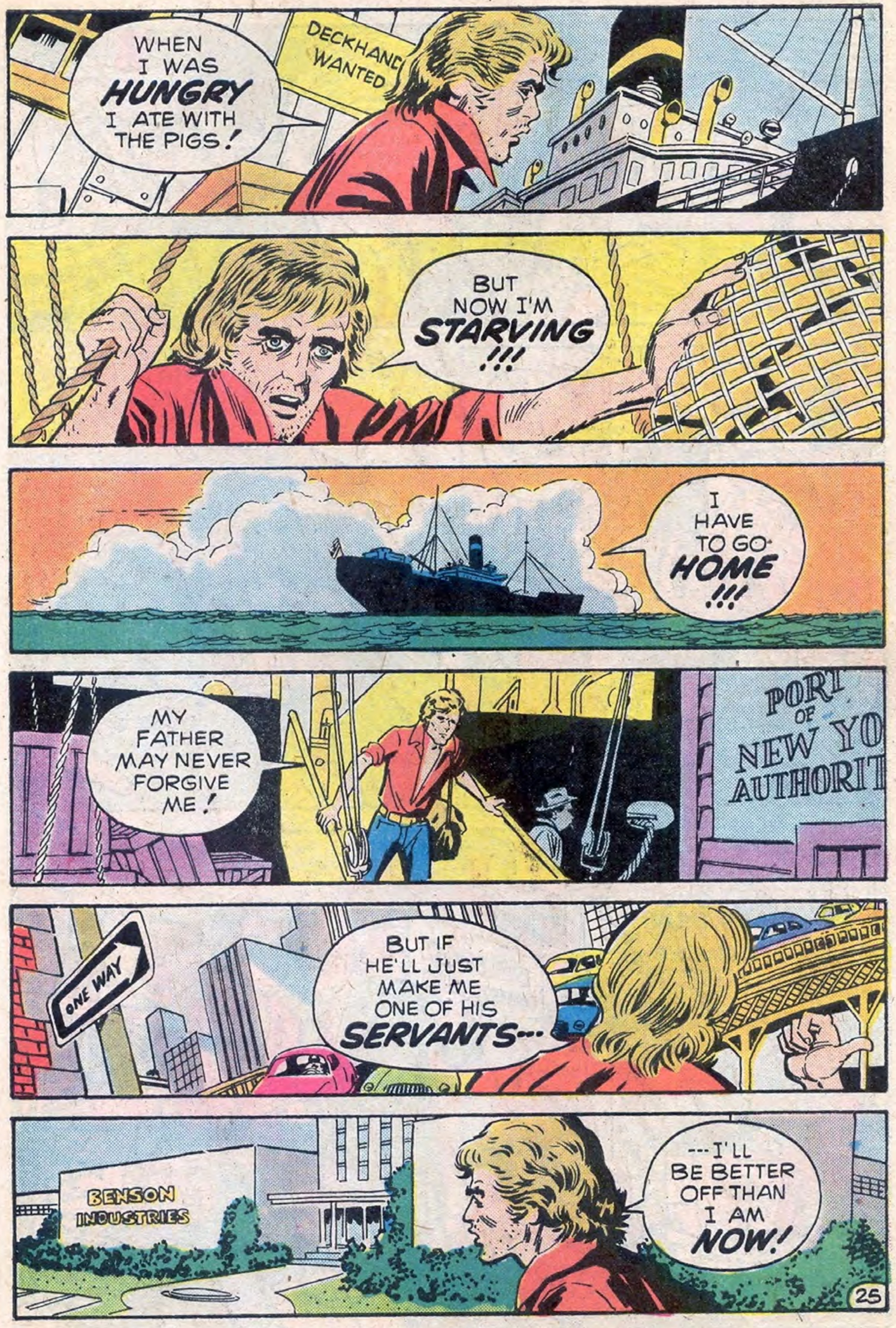

PETE, YOU THROW THE BEST PARTIES IN SOUTH AMERICA!
MR. BENSON---
---WE'RE CLOSING THE BAR!
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
WE PLAN TO WING IT ALL NIGHT!
SORRY, SIR---
MANAGER'S ORDERS!!!
21



WHAT'S THIS **NONSENSE** ALL ABOUT ???
IT'S YOUR **BILL**, SIR---
---YOU'RE SEVERAL MONTHS **DELINQUENT** !!!
WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY **CREDIT** ???
I'M AFRAID IT'S **RUN OUT**, SIR---
GOOD-NIGHT !!!
SEE YOU AROUND, PETE!
WAIT !!!
I'VE GOT SOME SAUCE IN MY ROOM---
IT'S GETTING LATE, PETE!


WHERE ARE YOU GOING ???
I DON'T KNOW---
BUT I'M TAKING MY THINGS---
BEFORE THE SHERIFF GRABS THEM!
THEY'VE ALREADY REPOSSESSED YOUR YACHT AND THE PLANE !!!
LET'S FACE IT, PETE---
THE PARTY'S OVER !!!
AND THEN---
WE'VE HAD SOME WILD TIMES, PETE---
AND I'D LIKE TO HELP YOU, BUT---
CAN I SEE YOU, WALT?
SORRY, PETE!
I'M IN A HURRY !!!
23

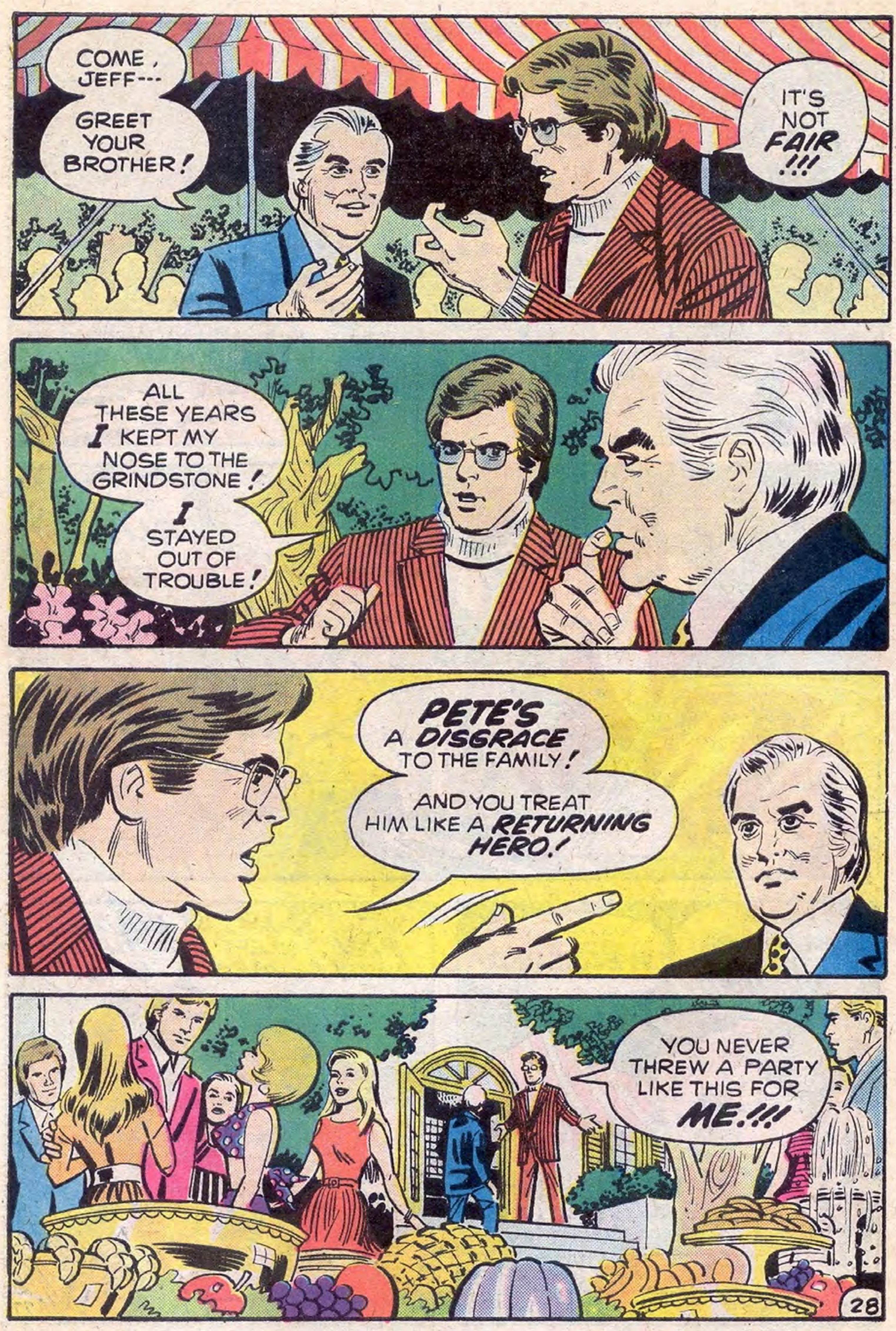

I RAN AWAY FROM MY FATHER AND GOD---
I SQUANDERED A FORTUNE!
AND NOW I'M PAYING FOR IT!
I COULD USE A HIRED-HAND---
BUT I CAN'T PAY MUCH!
THESE PIGS EAT BETTER THAN I DO!!!
LOOK AT THE WAY I LIVE NOW---
24


DECKHAND WANTED
WHEN I WAS HUNGRY I ATE WITH THE PIGS!
BUT NOW I'M STARVING!!!
I HAVE TO GO HOME!!!
MY FATHER MAY NEVER FORGIVE ME!
PORT OF NEW YO AUTHORIT
ONE WAY
BUT IF HE'LL JUST MAKE ME ONE OF HIS SERVANTS--
BENSON INDUSTRIES
--I'LL BE BETTER OFF THAN I AM NOW!
25


PETE !!!
OH, MY SON !!!
I'M NOT WORTHY TO BE CALLED YOUR SON !!!
CALL MY HOME, MRS. DEAN! TELL THE STAFF TO PREPARE A CELEBRATION !!!
BENSON INDUSTRIES
26



WHAT'S GOING ON ???
SCREEEE!
YOUR BROTHER'S BACK!
HE'S ALIVE !!!
HE DESERVES TO BE WHIPPED!
NOT WELCOMED!
HE RAN AWAY!
AND LEFT ME---
HOLDING THE BAG!
27


COME, JEFF--- GREET YOUR BROTHER!
IT'S NOT FAIR!!!
ALL THESE YEARS I KEPT MY NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE!
I STAYED OUT OF TROUBLE!
PETE'S A DISGRACE TO THE FAMILY!
AND YOU TREAT HIM LIKE A RETURNING HERO!
YOU NEVER THREW A PARTY LIKE THIS FOR ME.!!!
28



JEFF, YOU AND I COULDN'T BE CLOSER---
EVERYTHING I HAVE IS YOURS!
BUT, TONIGHT WE'VE GOT SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!
YOUR BROTHER HAS FINALLY COME TO HIS SENSES!
BUT I NEVER LOST MY SENSES!!!
WHAT ABOUT ME???
YES---
WHAT ABOUT YOU, JEFF???
CAN'T YOU FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER???
29


SELFISHNESS TOOK PETE AWAY FROM US---
NOW IT'S KEEPING YOU FROM HIM!
HE'S YOUR BROTHER, JEFF---
WE THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
AND HE'S ALIVE!!!
WE THOUGHT HE WAS LOST!
AND HE'S FOUND!!!
30

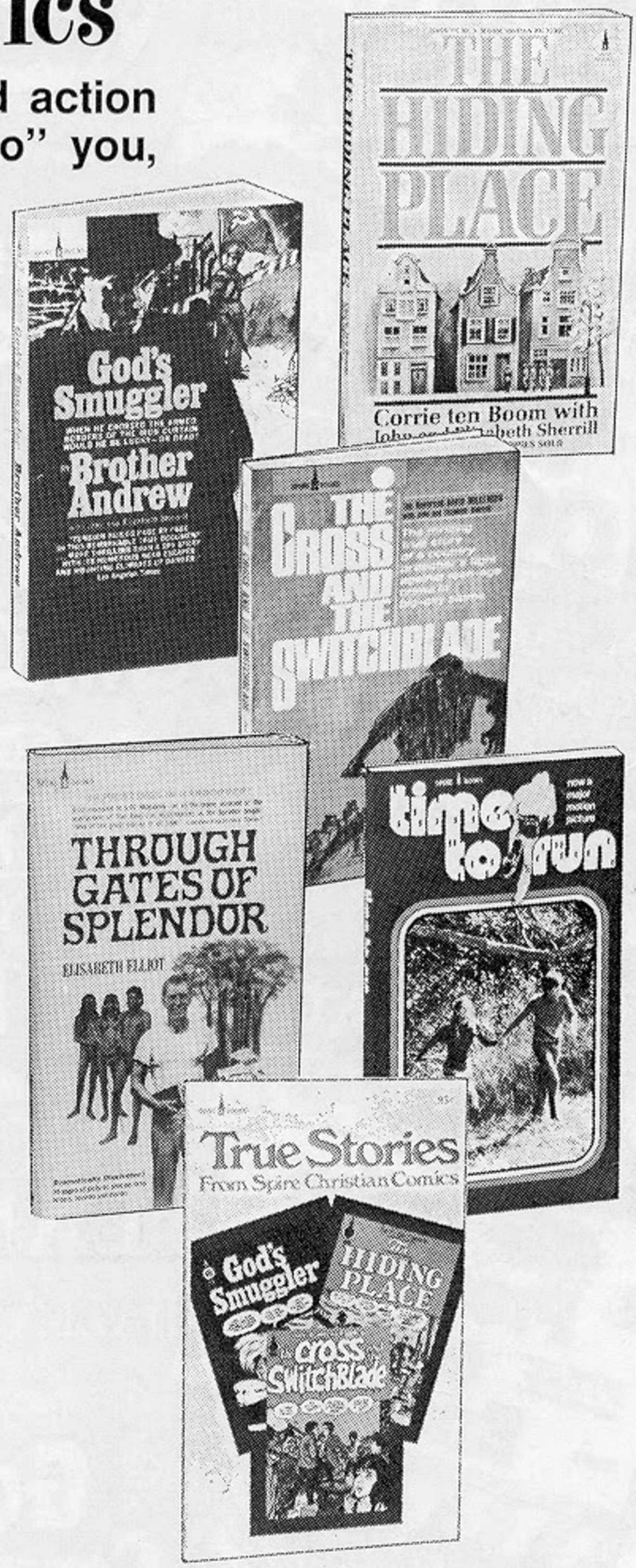

LOOK HOW THE FATHER TREATS HIS SONS !!!
JUST AS GOD TREATS HIS CHILDREN !!!
--WITH PATIENCE AND LOVE AND AMAZING GRACE !!!
AND EVEN WHEN THEY HURT HIM---
HE'S WILLING TO FORGIVE AND FORGET !!!
AND YET MAN'S PRIDE BLINDS HIM TO GOD'S GRACE !!!
31



THIS
SPIRE CHRISTIAN COMICS
ADAPTATION OF
THE PRODIGAL SON
BY
AL HARTLEY
IS BASED ON THE PARABLE TOLD BY JESUS IN LUKE 15 : 11-32
IT DEALS WITH SELFISHNESS AND PRIDE
IT SHOWS HOW THESE THINGS CAN SCAR A LIFE AND TEAR UP A FAMILY !!!
JESUS SAYS: DON'T GIVE YOUR HEART TO THE WORLD SYSTEM! IT'S BASED ON GREED AND LUST! IT'LL LEAD YOU DOWN A DEAD-END STREET!
SEE I JOHN 2: 15, 16
AND JESUS SPEAKS TO THOSE WHO ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH THEIR OWN "GOODNESS" THAT THEY CAN'T FORGIVE THE "WRONGS" OF OTHERS!
JESUS SAYS: DON'T GET UPTIGHT ABOUT THE SPLINTER IN YOUR BROTHER'S EYE --- AND MISS THE 2X4 IN YOUR OWN! SEE LUKE 6:41
WHETHER WE NEED--- FORGIVENESS OR FOOD--- GRACE OR HUMILITY---
WE FIND IT ALL IN JESUS !!!

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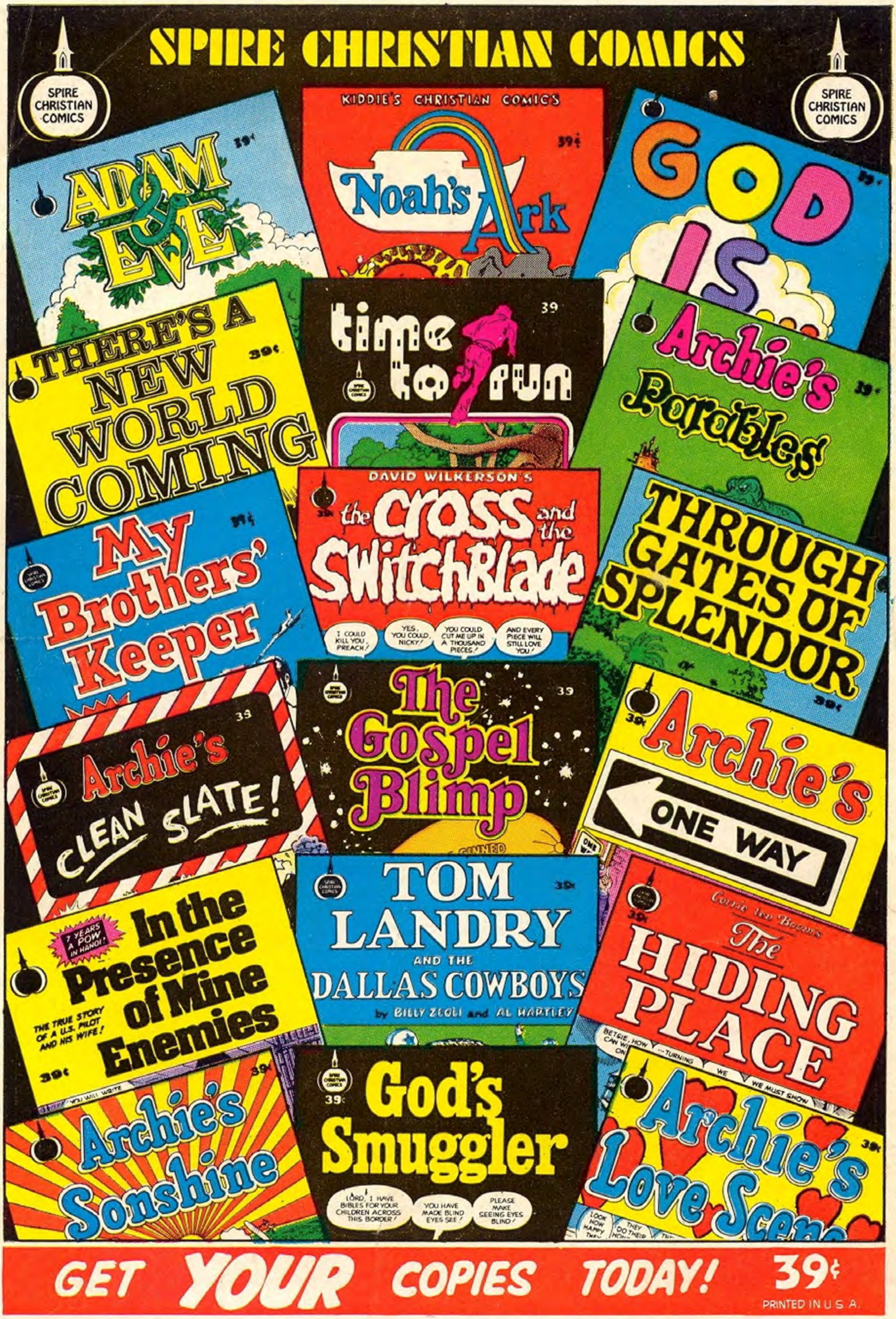
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